United Nations E/2005/NGO/2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2005

Original: English

Substantive session of 2005
New York, 29 June-27 July 2005
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities

Statement submitted by the Institute of International Social Development, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

05-35899 (E) 130605

Focus of our approach in achieving the Millennium Development Goals

Through our experience over the past few years, after the adoption of the Goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, it is apparent that civil societies, being major players in the implementation of these goals, have not received a methodology to evaluate the achievement of the MDGs. Although, on paper, partnership is encouraged, it is getting difficult to work out partnerships as clashing interests between Institutions interfere with such possibilities.

It is therefore recommended that the Economic and Social Council come out with a methodology to evaluate the work of member nations and civil society or implementing agencies annually, or on any other accepted basis, for assessing the progress made in the field of the MDGs.

The module could be worked out through recommendations and discussions of various member nations, civil society organizations and intergovernmental agencies. Mere support for MDGs and promoting that implementation, without any process of internal and external evaluation, which would provide a universal and uniform set of minimum common parameters, could make their achievement difficult for the players of social progress.

To make the MDGs a realization, we recommend that an evaluating committee be set up by the Council, with representation from all sectors relevant to the process of tracking the progress of nations.

As inequality exists in today's world owing to cultural disparities and a feeling of identity crisis, it would be also useful to include protection of indigenous cultures as an additional MDG or an extension of any one of the MDGs, namely 3 or 8. This would ensure that member nations handle minority issues more sensitively than they do presently. The dominance of mainstream cultures invading and eroding ethnic cultures would be sizeably reduced and help the global community to have a more diverse input in today's polarized world. Terrorism would be much more controlled.

The most important aspect that has not been given proper recognition and place in the MDGs and their implementation is the inculcation of human and spiritual values. Without these values there cannot be a peaceful and progressive world as corruption and other vices will eat into the progress that is endeavoured by all concerned. It is essential that the concept and practice of values be grafted onto every aspect of life on this planet to usher in peace, prosperity and development for humankind. Values help in reduction in resource leakage, promoting efficiency in governance of daily social activities by the members of the society. Values ensure higher mental sensitivity, appreciation of one another's sentiments and a judicious mindset for any activity, resulting in fewer immoral actions.

We would like to seize the opportunity to place our recommendations in the high-level segment for the above-mentioned issues.

Though the MDGs are well thought out goals set for member nations to follow, they are often too theoretical for implementation as they do not mention human relations with respect to human rights and cultural protection.

We would like certain adaptations in the MDGs so that they become more suited to societies made up of human beings who have minds and hearts that dictate their actions, rather than societies that are seen as impersonal units of civilization.

The past United Nations conferences on sustainable development at Copenhagen and Johannesburg, status of women at Beijing, the special session on HIV/AIDS in New York, etc. have listed recommendations for a better world and served as precursors to the MDGs but there has been a lack of minimum common modules for implementation of the recommendations, giving the agencies the opportunity to interpret the recommendations according to their respective understanding, bringing about a huge difference in outcome and methodology of implementation by member nations, and creating clashes between them.

The present wars and acts of terrorism are mostly fallouts of such lacunae and hence the Council needs to work out a solution for making the MDGs more comprehensive and pragmatic through guidelines of implementation and parameters of evaluation.

MDGs need to be also understood by the administrations of member nations in totality. They lack adequate promotion within the policymaking bodies of member nations. Without adequate dissemination of information, the 2015 target for achieving the MDGs by member nations will be far from a reality, based on the extent of commitments that have been made.

United Nations E/2005/NGO/3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2005

Original: English

Substantive session of 2005
New York, 29 June-27 July 2005
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities

Statement submitted by World Family Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

05-35906 (E) 150605

Statement

Participants representing Governments, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), experts and scholars from all over the world who are concerned with family and development issues have been gathered in Sanya, China, from 6 to 9 December 2004 to attend the World Family Summit, and to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Family. After three days of deliberations, participants adopted the Sanya Declaration in the spirit of human civilization, human rights, and sustainable development in order to promote the family focused approached and support families to achieve the MDGs. On the basis of the consensus reached, participants pledged to implement the Declaration through concerted efforts.

Sanya declaration

We participants of the World Family Summit assembled in Sanya, People's Republic of China, from 6 to 9 December, 2004:

Noting with satisfaction that Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in this World Family Summit is the biggest partnership towards bringing the present and the future world with more peace, security, justice, tolerance, solidarity, prosperity by mobilizing and promoting the basic unit of society – the Family,

Underlining the tremendous preparatory work for the Summit since 2001 including the regional and national meetings at the initiative of the World Family Organization in cooperation with the United Nations,

Highlighting the great efforts of the Peoples' Republic of China Government and their commitment for a successful Summit and concrete outcome for family development,

Emphasizing that the discussions and the deliberations of the Summit were under a comprehensive and integrated approach to development, drawing from all the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the UN Summits and Conferences of the 90's and the follow-up process of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

Appreciating that the interaction, discourse and partnership among all stakeholders – Governments, Local authorities, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, Parliamentarians, Academia, Business Community and Families – led to reaffirming the political will to strengthen family contribution in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing that this Celebration constituted an important opportunity to reinforce and enhance the effectiveness of efforts at all levels to carry out specific family related programmes, to generate new activities and to improve the cooperation among all actors of society in support of families,

Encouraging all stakeholders to make every possible effort to achieve the objectives of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, to integrate a family perspective in planning and implementation processes within participatory governance, and to place family perspectives in the International Agenda,

Proclaim the following:

Being in full agreement of the above proclaimed, we participants of the World Family Summit commit ourselves to disseminate and call upon Governments, Civil Society, and other institutions to increase efforts to:

1. Include family perspectives in the international agenda and as priority when developing national strategies, formulating economic, social and environmental policies and programs, promote partnership between families and communities, comply with the principles of good governance and rule by law and render full support to families and development.

2. Urge governments of all countries to:

   a. Act upon their commitments to achieve the MDGs and the goals and objectives of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Program of Action, and promote the integration of those goals in policies and development programmes;

   b. Empower families and their members, in particular women and girls, and place them in the center of poverty-reduction policies;

   c. Develop poverty-reduction policies that assist families, especially women-headed households and vulnerable families;

   d. Promote universal access to education for all family members, especially for women and girls, achieve universal access to primary education, and prevent children from dropping out of school;

   e. Ensure equal rights among all family members with special attention to the rights of women and girls;

   f. Ensure women's access to economic resources and ensure their right to inheritance;

   g. Support family policies that foster the participation of men in sharing responsibilities of household chores, conciliate between professional and family life, and empower women to participate in public political, economical, and social life, and free them from neglect, exploitation, abuse and violence;

   h. Ensure paid maternity leave, paid child-rearing leave, breastfeeding and availability of nurseries and encourage men to take responsibility in raising children;

   i. Strengthen policies to reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity;

   j. Empower youth and adults to participate in family and development life,

   k. Encourage the participation of adolescents in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of adolescent programs, in particular health programmes that include health education focusing on sexual and reproductive health;

   l. Support research on population aging and strengthen policy systems so as to create a positive and healthy living environment for the elderly;

   m. Ensure that all families have access to housing.

3. Enhance political commitment and ensure sufficient resources to prevent HIV/AIDS and promote care as well as support families to better care for their members who are infected with HIV/AIDS, including protecting them from discrimination and stigma. Encourage people living with HIV/AIDS and their relatives to combat ignorance and panic; and take action to integrate HIV/AIDS prevention and care into reproductive health services.

4. Support the role of families in environmental protection, promote the adoption of sustainable production and consumption patterns and enable all family members to enjoy a life that is environment friendly and harmonious with nature.

5. Promote dialogue, communication, and cooperation among different cultures, based on respect, tolerance, understanding and trust. Promote social harmony and integration, through effective public policies involving communities and families.

6. Promote partnership initiatives, projects/programmes between governments, the United Nations, NGOs, Academia, Local Authorities, Parliamentarians, and Business Community on comprehensive integrated and cross-sector programmes for family poverty alleviation and sustainable development, and ensure means to effectively and efficiently implement them.

At the same time, we, the participants, call upon

7. Members of the international community, governments of different countries, and civil society organizations to strengthen partnership with programs that focus on the family;

8. Reaffirm support to the ICPD and MDGs commitments related to family perspectives, recognizing the role of families as essential in development efforts;

9. The inclusion of family perspectives into the five-year Review of the UN MDGs;

10. Governments of all countries, to reinforce their political commitments towards implementation of family-focused policies and programmes, welcome the civil society organizations and families in general to participate in the formulation and implementation of those policies and programmes.

We, the participants, reiterate that we will always bear in mind our responsibility to the family, improve well-being of the family and its members, enable families to achieve their optimal aspirations, promote interaction between the family and development and exert concerted efforts towards the MDGs.